

REMARKS

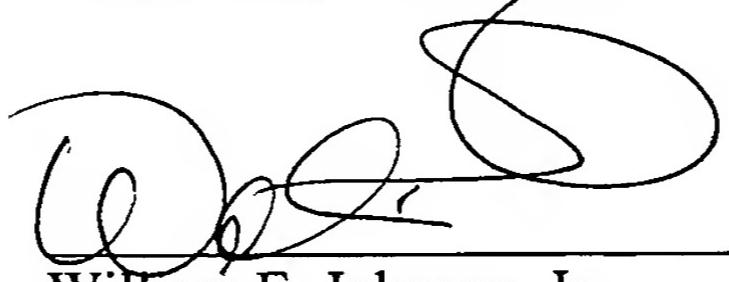
Claim 8 was previously canceled as being directed to a non-elected invention. Claim 2 is currently canceled.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested for Claim 1, as amended, and for Claims 3-7, which are dependent upon Claim 1, said claims having been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 based upon the applicant's own U.S. Patent No. 5,460,566. This rejection is respectfully traversed, based upon the present amendment to Claim 1. In the earlier U.S. Patent No. 5,460,566 to Joe O. Trahan (the '566 patent), particularly as illustrated in FIG. 1, an electric motor 16 is physically located away from the container in which the articles are being cleaned. The electric motor 16 powers through a hydraulic line 17 a hydraulic pump 18, which is also on the exterior of the container, but which is not physically attached to the container. The shaft of hydraulic pump 18 in turn drives a shaft having eccentric weights which are connected to a portion of the container. This is best shown in FIG. 6 of the '566 patent in which the eccentric weights 552 are connected to a shaft 554 with the shaft 564 itself being connected to the container 558. Neither the electric motor 16 nor the hydraulic pump 18 is connected to the container. In sharp contrast, as illustrated in the drawings of the present application, specifically FIG. 1, the electric motor 552 is connected directly to the exterior wall of the container 558. The shaft of the motor 552 is not connected to anything other than the interior of the motor 552.

In summary, the function of the vibration in the '566 patent keeps the motor still and causes the rotating shaft to be connected to the container, whereas in the present invention, the shaft of the electric motor is not connected to the container, but the motor itself vibrates and is

connected to the container, thus causing the container to vibrate. This difference is spelled out clearly in the amendment to Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 as amended is believed to fully distinguish over the cited '566 patent. On that basis, Claims 1 and 3-7 are believed to be in *prima facia* condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,



William E. Johnson, Jr.

Reg. No. 22,719

THE MATTHEWS FIRM (Cust. No. 021897)

1900 West Loop South, Suite 1800

Houston, Texas 77027

Telephone - 713-355-4200

Facsimile - 713-355-9689